

In the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A particle comprising a complex of chitosan, or a chitosan derivative thereof, a lipid, and a polynucleotide.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): ~~The nanoparticle particle of claim 1, wherein said particle further comprises a lipid, and wherein said particle comprises a complex of said chitosan, said polynucleotide, and said lipid is a nanoparticle.~~

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The particle of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a cytokine.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The particle of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes interferon gamma.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A composition comprising a particle and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said particle comprises a complex of chitosan, or a chitosan derivative thereof, a lipid, and a polynucleotide.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): ~~The composition of claim 5, wherein said particle further comprises a lipid, and wherein said particle comprises a complex of said chitosan, said polynucleotide, and said lipid is a nanoparticle.~~

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a cytokine.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide encodes interferon gamma.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A method for delivery and expression of a polynucleotide within a ~~host~~ mammal, said method comprising administering a particle to the ~~host~~ mammal, wherein the particle comprises a complex of chitosan, or a chitosan derivative thereof, a lipid, and a polynucleotide, wherein the polynucleotide is expressed in the mammal.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the particle ~~further comprises a lipid, and wherein the particle is a complex of the chitosan, polynucleotide, and lipid is a~~ nanoparticle.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a cytokine.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the polynucleotide encodes interferon gamma.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the particle is administered within a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A method for enhancing interferon-gamma expression to regulate the production of cytokines secreted by T-helper type 2 (Th2) cells, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a particle to a ~~subject~~ mammal, wherein the particle comprises chitosan, or a chitosan derivative thereof, a lipid, and a polynucleotide encoding interferon-gamma, and wherein the polynucleotide is expressed, producing interferon-gamma in the mammal.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~subject~~ mammal is human.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~subject~~ mammal is suffering from asthma.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the particle is administered to the respiratory tract of the ~~subject~~ mammal.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A method for producing a particle comprising a complex of chitosan, or a chitosan derivative thereof, a lipid, and a polynucleotide, said method comprising mixing the polynucleotide, the lipid, and the chitosan or chitosan derivative, to form the particle.

Claims 22-23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 10, wherein the particle is administered intranasally.

Claim 25 (New): The particle of claim 1, wherein the lipid is a cationic lipid or phospholipid.

Claim 26 (New): The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle comprises chitosan.